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Couple Describe Berlin 'Coups' Plan

A California couple, returning to their home after a year in stateless Berlin, stopped in Burlington this week to write the concluding chapter of their experiences.

Last month J. Hunter Hollaway, city editor of the Sunday News, received an early morning telephone call from Susan and Reinald Neumann who were then in West Berlin. The couple, old friends, asked if he could put them in direct touch with U. S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

They said they had a letter which would be of great interest to Rusk but were afraid to use diplomatic channels.

Through this newspaper's Washington, D. C. correspondent, Seerah McClendon (who is now in West Berlin) the Central Intelligence Agency was informed of the plea. The CIA contacted the couple at their Berlin home five hours after their hasty call to the United States.

Because it was understood that East Germans were monitoring all communications in and out of Berlin the story could not be told in full. This week, back in the U. S., the couple visited Hollaway in Burlington.

From Statesmen

Reinald, a 28-year-old architect, said the letter was from

a group of prominent Berlin statesmen who are not pleased with Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's role in the East-West battle for Berlin's freedom. They feel the city should be separated entirely from both Eastern and Western influences.

The group, composed of attorneys, journalists and members of the Berlin senate have composed a plan which would separate the city from the rest of Germany, making it a state within itself. State owned industry in East Berlin would become property of the community while free enterprise would continue at its present level.

Eventually, Neumann said, industry would become integrated.

The plan has already appointed men to the posts within this new government. Other "plans" in the past, Neumann said, were "fragmentary and incomplete."

The new Berlin state would trade freely with both sides of the Iron Curtain. He said, "To be-

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lieve that West Germany is not trading now with East Germany is foolish. A tag on the barbed wire fence on the wall," he said, "read 'made in West Germany'." The fence and wall were erected by Communist East Germany.

Neumann said, that after he and his wife had been contacted by the CIA he put the government intelligence agency in touch with the political group. He understands that the head of this group, identified as A. E. Fontenay was to meet with a member of the state department in London the following week.

Talks Called Off

The meeting was called off, he said when French prime minister Charles de Gaulle joined Adenauer's "unshakable stand" on West Berlin.

Secretary of State Rusk reaffirmed Saturday night that the United States would not consider the designation of a "buffer zone" between the two Germanys. Berlin, deep in East Germany, would not be affected by such a neutral zone.